

**RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

The Examiner has required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to one of the following inventions:

- I. Group I, claims 1-34, drawn to a method for producing a proton conducting membrane; and
- II. Group II, claims 35-36, drawn to a proton conducting membrane.

Furthermore, the Examiner requires restriction of the above invention I into the following species:

- I-1 Claims 1-32 read on a method for producing a proton conducting membrane which comprises a first step of oxidizing a mercapto group-containing oligomer and a fourth step of oxidizing the mercapto group in the membrane; and
- I-2 Claims 33-34 read on a method for producing a proton conducting membrane which comprises a first step of preparing a mixture containing a mercapto group-containing oligomer.

**ELECTION**

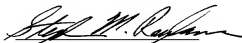
In response to the requirement for restriction, Applicants elect, without traverse, the Invention of Group I, claims 1-34, allegedly drawn to a method for producing a proton conducting membrane.

In response to the species requirement, Applicants elect, without traverse, the species I-1, Claims 1-32 allegedly read on a method for producing a proton conducting

membrane which comprises a first step of oxidizing a mercapto group-containing oligomer and a fourth step of oxidizing the mercapto group in the membrane.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
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